





LETTER FROM ARLOA

Dear Friends,

Breakthrough has reached another incredible milestone this year with our 25th Anniversary. When I founded Breakthrough 25 years ago I had no idea what God would do. From our humble beginnings in a storefront room to the creation of the FamilyPlex in 2015, I have been amazed every moment.

I'm proud of the work Breakthrough is doing every day in East Garfield Park. We've been at it for a long time and we know what works. Over the past 25 years, we've seen thousands of homeless people find homes, job seekers become employed, preschool students going to top high school and colleges, and neighbors come together to end hunger.

I have the privilege of living and working alongside people I admire who are fighting to create meaningful change. Through our work at Breakthrough, we are weaving together a social fabric in East Garfield Park that supports the dreams and hopes already embedded in the community. It's

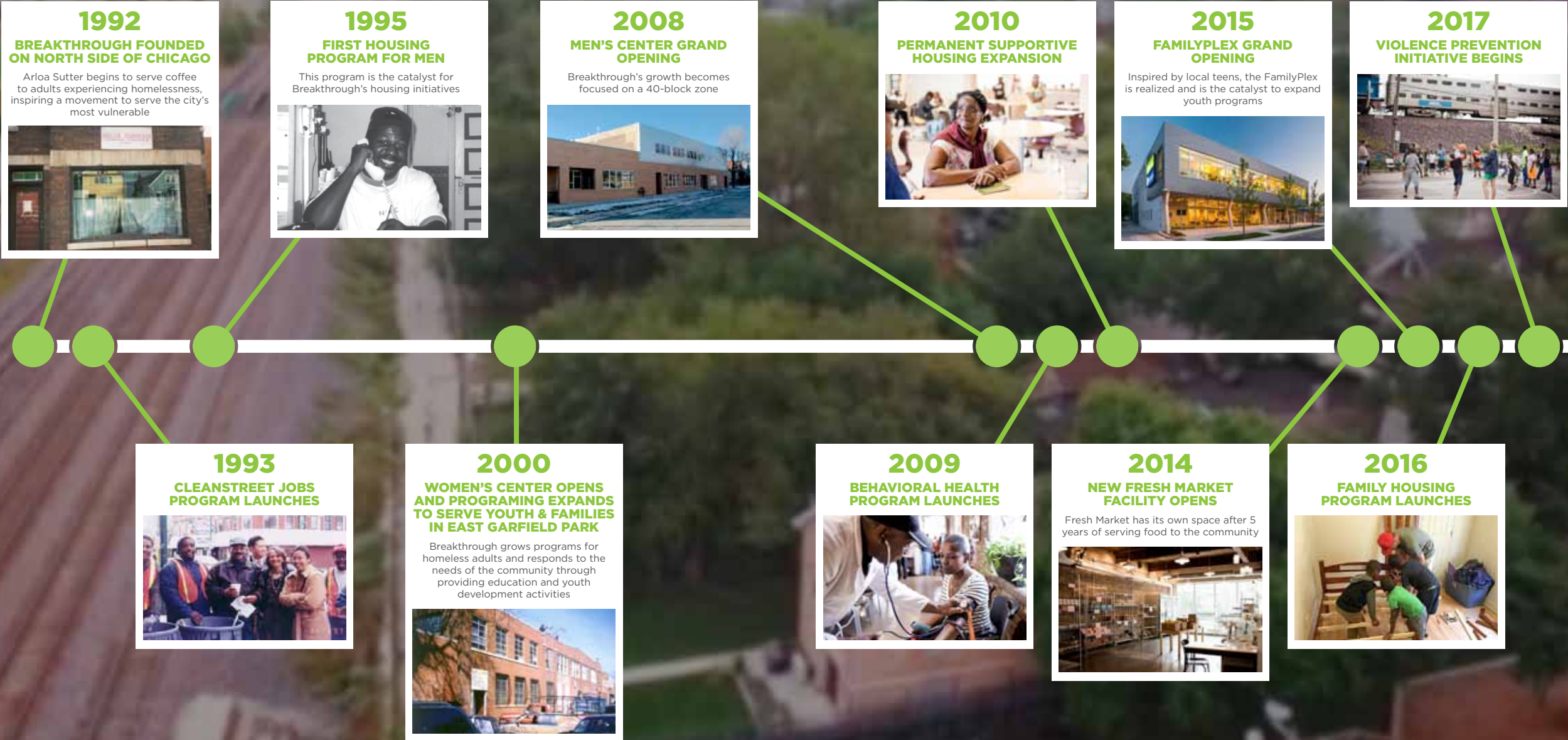
this unity that creates progress and builds leadership in our community. It allows for creative problem solving, understanding across cultures, and a strong vision for what is best for our neighborhood.

East Garfield Park has a vibrant history enriched by the contributions of thousands of local residents, many of whom I'm proud to say are part of Breakthrough. They are people that every day say, "I'm here; let's do this" for our friends, families, and neighborhood. What an honor to be part of this work for 25 years.

Throughout these pages you'll see pictures, statistics, and stories of people who are standing in solidarity with each other to create meaningful change and a new normal in East Garfield Park. I'm blessed to work with these people everyday and grateful for the vision that God has given us for the future.

Arloa Sutter, Executive Director

25 YEARS OF BREAKTHROUGH





MISSION

Breakthrough demonstrates the compassion of Christ by partnering with those affected by poverty to build connections, develop skills, and open doors of opportunity.

**CORE
VALUES**

GOD

PEOPLE

RELATIONSHIPS

REDEMPTION

STRUCTURE

COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY

RACIAL JUSTICE



EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Breakthrough Beginners
- Nettie Bailey Student Achievement Program
- London Johnson Arts & Technology Academy
- Parent engagement with local families



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Career Pathways
- Job training / leadership development
- Digital Literacy Education
- Financial Literacy
- Income supports



HOUSING

- Permanent Supportive Housing for unaccompanied adults
- Permanent Supportive Housing for families
- Transitional Housing for unaccompanied men and women
- Support Center

FOCUS AREAS

HOW WE SUPPORT PEOPLE



HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Medical clinic in partnership with Lawndale Christian Health Center
- Fresh Market: food pantry serving zip codes 60612, 60624
- Behavioral Health for homeless adults
- Sports and Fitness Academy
- Breakthrough Fitness Center
- Bridge Cafe



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

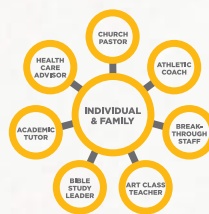
- Street-level intervention and prevention against retaliation
- Community-based case management at the street level and for reentry individuals
- Resource development: housing, employment, and other income
- Creating and cultivating safe public spaces



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Participants of all Breakthrough's programs have the option to participate in:

- Devotionals
- Spiritual direction
- Prayer
- Bible studies



NETWORK MODEL

All of our programs are built on the foundation that more relationships → more learning → more support → more opportunities, and a higher likelihood of sustained progress toward the lives individuals want for themselves.



TRAUMA INFORMED

Trauma comes in many forms and impact our guests, participants and residents in a variety of ways. We train our staff regularly on the effects of trauma and how it impacts daily life and thought processes; then we seek to understand, empathize and structure our services to acknowledge and overcome these negative impacts.



DIGNITY & RESPECT

Even the individual in the most vulnerable circumstances has something to bring to the restoration process, and they must be empowered to do it. Motivated by our faith and commitment to loving others, we help them find solutions with dignity and respect.

KEY CONCEPTS

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?



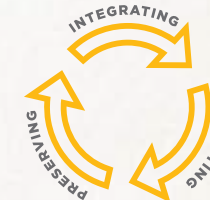
GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

One of the most unique things about Breakthrough is our commitment to community revitalization within what we call our “40 Block Zone.” While many organizations specialize on one or two core services spread broadly across the city, our vision targets deep and holistic change in our neighborhood, so success becomes the norm for all residents.



DIVERSE FUNDING BASE

We believe personal relationships, unique partnerships, and fundraising events are key to a diverse and sustainable funding base. From the beginning we have cultivated opportunities to maximize funding from individual donors, and our program’s success has drawn significant investments from corporations, foundations, churches, and government sources.



COMMUNITY DNA

The only way to truly become part of a community is to build intimate connections, listen, and respond by often putting our own agendas aside. This approach led to the development of the FamilyPlex and Family Housing, and will continue to expand our efforts in the coming years.



VOLUNTEERS

Clay Crites, Paula Bos, and Antoinette Lockett have been volunteering in Breakthrough’s Manna Ministry for over three years. As a part of Soul City Church, they lead a service-oriented small group and bring a fresh group of volunteers to Breakthrough every few months. The group faithfully serves meals at the Men’s and Women’s Centers every other week, and through their time they have seen the impact and importance of individuals coming together to break bread and actively be in community with one another.

Clay says that he looks forward to serving at Breakthrough each week and believes it’s a tangible way of showing God’s face to people. “At Breakthrough, dignity and choice is a key principle that our group aims to promote and maintain. Through our words, actions, and more, we strive to respect the residents, be there for them, and bring God’s love to them.”



DEDICATED CORPORATE PARTNERS

Since September 2016, Nestle USA has been volunteering at the Breakthrough Fresh Market each month. Over the past year, Nestle has brought more than 100 unique volunteers to support the Fresh Market’s produce delivery day. “It’s really rewarding to help a community that isn’t ours. It gives our staff purpose outside of their daily jobs,” says Maggie Palermo, who initially connected Nestle to Breakthrough. Many of the Nestle volunteers come from Chicago and the surrounding suburbs and have built meaningful relationships with some of the long-time Fresh Market volunteers.

2950+ VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT
BREAKTHROUGH EACH YEAR

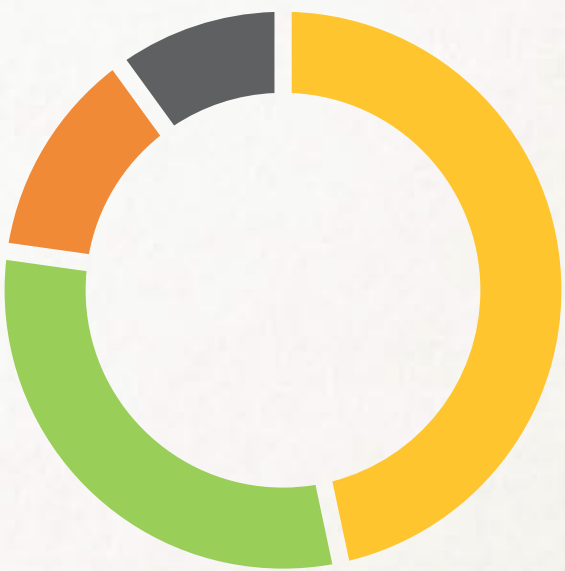
50+ CHURCHES INVOLVED IN
VOLUNTEERING AT BREAKTHROUGH

GROUP VOLUNTEERS **47%**

**BREAKTHROUGH YOUTH NETWORK
REGULAR VOLUNTEERS** **10%**

EVENT VOLUNTEERS **13%**
(I.E., CHRISTMAS STORE, HOME COURT, HUNGER WALK)

**ADULT SUPPORT NETWORK
REGULAR VOLUNTEERS** **30%**
(I.E. MANNA MINISTRY)



TENEA

Fifteen years ago, Tenea was a student in Breakthrough's afterschool program. She and her sister came to Bible study, they played soccer with their Breakthrough friends, and they were involved in as much as Breakthrough had to offer at the time.

Lisa Gwin, who still works at Breakthrough as its Director of Early Childhood Education, remembers it vividly.

"We had a very close relationship with her grandmother, who raised Tenea and her sister," Lisa remembers. Over the years, Lisa kept in touch with Tenea and when she recently had children of her own who were ready for preschool, Tenea wanted them to come to Breakthrough.

"The Breakthrough Beginners program has had a strong impact on my child's education, social experience and self-growth."

Tenea's son was enrolled in the Breakthrough Beginners program for two years before he graduated, but it wasn't an easy road. In the beginning, he needed significant support for sensory challenges that made it difficult for him to pay attention or sit still. To foster his progress, Breakthrough provided Tenea and her son with strategies to help him "self-regulate," and learn on his own how to process and overcome challenges.

"We saw huge success in his personal and academic growth," Lisa said. His test scores reaffirm that. Tenea's son graduated from the Breakthrough Beginners in the 81st percentile.

Tenea wrote, in a thank-you text to Lisa, "The Breakthrough Beginners program has had a strong impact on my child's education, social experience and self-growth." Tenea's daughter, her second child, is enrolled in the Breakthrough Beginners this year.

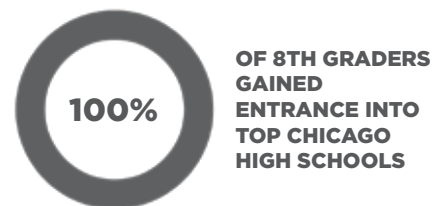
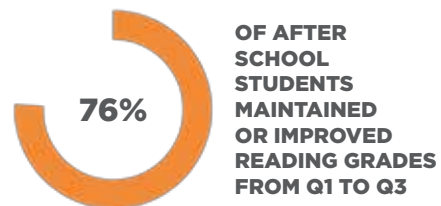
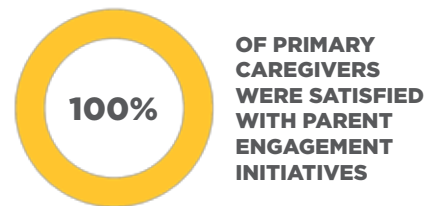
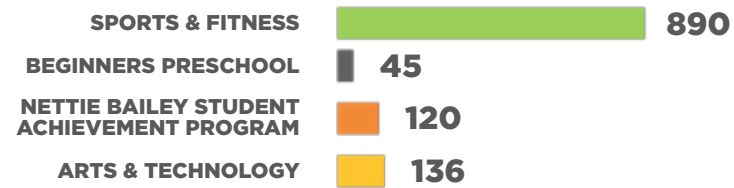




EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

THE IMPACT OF QUALITY EDUCATION

1,042 UNDUPLICATED STUDENTS SERVED





ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Over the summer, Breakthrough kids from the London Johnson Arts & Technology Academy spent 5 days in “Broadcast Camp” learning all about broadcast journalism with Breakthrough volunteers and friends WGN Anchor Cortney Hall and Producer Afua Owusu.

The students met with guest speakers, took a field trip to WGN studios, and taped a news segment they crafted themselves. Throughout the camp, they wrote scripts, read from the prompter, and learned about the different types of reporting. Each student picked a role: anchor, reporter, sportscaster, weather correspondent, or trending newscaster.

“The kids loved the class,” said Shalom Watts, Associate Director of Breakthrough Arts and Technology Academy. “The more hands-on they got to be, the more fun they had.”

**“The kids loved the class...
The more hands-on they got
to be, the more fun they had.”**

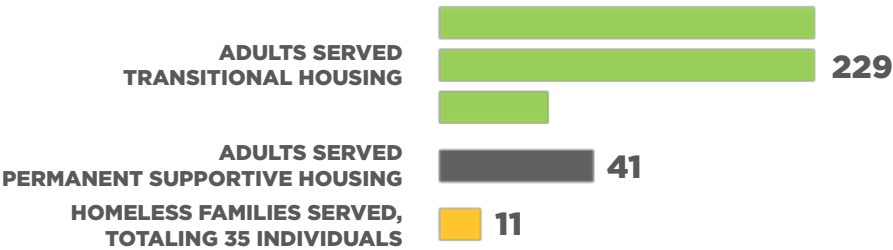
Even if a career in broadcast journalism isn’t their chosen profession, the kids said they overcame their fear of public speaking through the camp, a skill applicable in any field.



HOUSING

SERVICES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

1,411 TOTAL ADULTS ENGAGED
IN HOMELESS SERVICES



1,130 ADULTS ACCESSED EMERGENCY SERVICES
AT OUR DAYTIME SUPPORT CENTER



TANYA

Tanya and her 15-year-old daughter, Mariam, became homeless last summer. Tanya had lost her job and their apartment, both at the same time.

Tanya and Mariam were forced to move into a shelter. After months of searching, with no hope of finding an apartment in sight, a friend told Tanya about Breakthrough. Tanya is an optimist at heart. She's also willing to do anything to keep her daughter safe. Hurriedly, she came to Breakthrough with hope for help.

“It feels so surreal that I don’t have to worry about her now.”

“My daughter thought Breakthrough wasn’t going to be able to help us, that it was just another empty promise and we’d be stuck in the shelter for another summer,” Tanya said.

But within just a few weeks, Breakthrough was able to secure a safe, affordable apartment for Tanya and Mariam. They have a home again. Tanya is working again. And they’ve got three months rent paid in full.

“I wanted to give my daughter a normal summer,” Tanya said. “It feels so surreal that I don’t have to worry about her now. She’s at home, making popcorn and watching movies or drawing in her room.”

“I thank Breakthrough for that.”



HEALTH & WELLNESS

SPORTS & FITNESS

890 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN
SPORTS PROGRAMS



OF PARTICIPANTS
DEMONSTRATED
EXCEPTIONAL PRO-
SOCIAL BEHAVIORS



IMPROVED IN A
SPORTS-SPECIFIC
SKILL



YOUTH EXPANDED THEIR
NETWORK OF HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS WITH
135 VOLUNTEERS





HEALTH & WELLNESS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

228 ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
RECEIVED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE



OF PARTICIPANTS
RECEIVED AN
INCREASED
AWARENESS OF THE
IMPACT OF TRAUMA
IN THEIR LIVES



OF PARTICIPANTS
RECEIVED ON-SITE
PSYCHOTHERAPY OR
1:1 COACHING



OF PARTICIPANTS
RECEIVED
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CARE COORDINATION
SERVICES



OF PARTICIPANTS
REPORTED AN
INCREASED
KNOWLEDGE OF
HEALTH CHOICES
AND BEHAVIORS AND
IMPROVED SELF-
MANAGEMENT



DONNA

In 2016, Breakthrough was fortunate to hire a part-time wellness coach for the Women's Center. Donna Westbrook, a long time Breakthrough friend and former staff member, rejoined the team to support the mental health needs of women accessing services through the Women's Center day program.

Without Donna these women would not receive mental health services. Today, guests with severe and persistent mental illness or co-occurring disorders (medical and/or substance use) now have someone dedicated to coordinating services by connecting them with behavioral health services, emergency shelter, and other wellness resources.

Through screenings and counseling activities, Donna is able to support the variety of mental health needs of women at Breakthrough. During her time at Breakthrough, Donna has established trust with the women, supported them as they found housing, helped them stabilize mental health conditions, and even helped with landlord negotiation.

Guests now have someone dedicated to coordinating services for them.

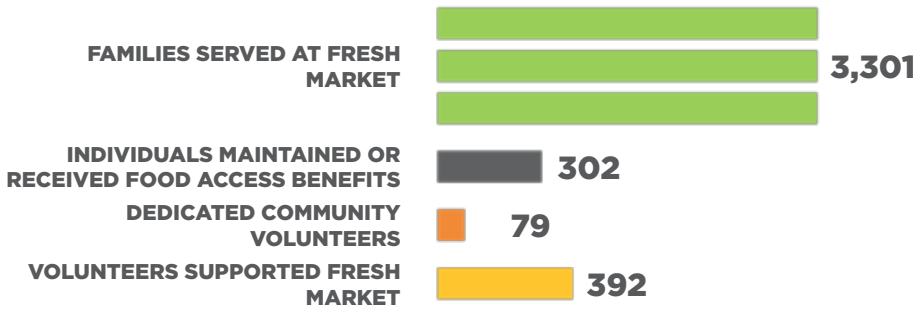
Donna's work is a tremendous asset to Breakthrough and the women at the Women's Center. This addition to the Behavioral Health Program has helped deepen Breakthrough's level of intervention services while helping participants gain stability.





HEALTH & WELLNESS

FRESH MARKET



672,930

POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED



35%

INCREASE IN FOOD FROM PREVIOUS YEAR



MARTELL

Martell grew up in East Garfield Park and in his words, “In the neighborhood I grew up in, it was easier to learn how to be an effective drug dealer than how to interview well and find a job ... at a certain point, I didn’t really expect to live very long ... I was drawn to the gang culture, it was the security and safety of being known.”

Martell got connected to Breakthrough and found the community that he had been looking for in a gang in the positive, safe environment of Breakthrough. As a teenager he says, “It was perfect! Everything I needed to feel secure was in this space. I had another option. There was a community of people to love and support me ... without being involved in a gang. It was then I realized that I might live longer than I expected, I might have a future.”

“There was a community of people to love and support me ... without being involved in a gang.”

Breakthrough surrounded Martell with a strong community and also supported his family, including his mother, who obtained her Masters degree. Today, Martell lives in Memphis, TN and works for a community engagement organization similar to Breakthrough and is committed to helping others like him.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ADULT EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

135 PEOPLE RECEIVED
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

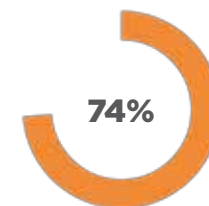
We know that the likelihood of maintaining a job increases when an individual has a home, education, and support for overcoming substance abuse.



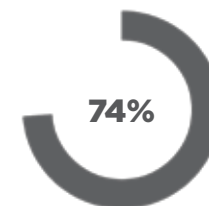
RECEIVED DIRECT
BASIC EDUCATION
OR PRE-BRIDGE
EDUCATION



RECEIVED
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
TREATMENT OR
REFERRALS TO
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
TREATMENT



RECEIVED
FINANCIAL
EDUCATION



RECEIVED
REFERRALS FOR
HOUSING RESOURCES

54 PEOPLE FOUND JOBS



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Breakthrough is a leading partner in an innovative city-wide approach to violence prevention and reduction. This community-based effort mobilizes street outreach workers and case managers to support some of the city's most vulnerable individuals through providing:

- Opportunities for safe community engagement
- Connection to resources – such as job training and counseling
- Educational activities for youth
- Positive activities for the East Garfield Park community



SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$ 3,292,544
Government grants	1,293,340
Fees	153,744
Gifts in kind	1,190,059
Rental and other income	398,248

TOTALS

\$ 6,327,935

EXPENSES

Program services	\$ 6,438,009
Management and general	358,724
Fundraising	555,181

TOTALS

\$ 7,351,914

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$ (1,023,979)*

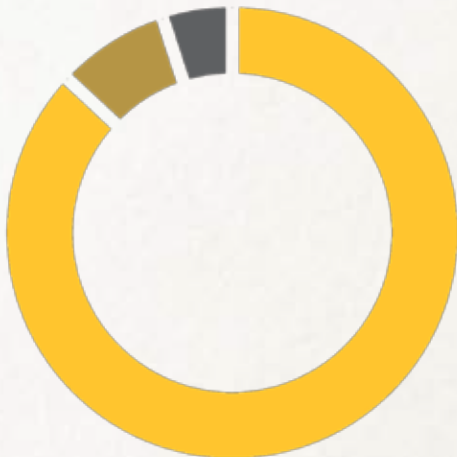
REVENUE

INDIVIDUALS	38%
FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS	16%
CHURCHES	2%
GOVERNMENT	20%
PROGRAM FEES	3%
OTHER	4%
DONATED GOODS	17%



EXPENSES

PROGRAM	87%
FUNDRAISING	8%
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	5%



*Numbers shown are based on the accrual method of accounting and include non-cash expenses, including \$700,000 in depreciation expense. On a cash basis Breakthrough did not end the year with an operating deficit.



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Arloa Sutter
Executive Director



Yolanda Fields
Chief Program Officer
Adult Support Network



Bill Curry
Chief Program Officer
Breakthrough Youth Network



Wilonda Cannon
Senior Director of
Development



John Smith
Chief Administrative Officer

GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS



Terry Truax
Managing Partner
Jenner & Block



Tarrah Cooper
Managing Director
Mercury



Gannon Jones
Senior VP of Marketing
Allstate



Stuart Miller
Partner
Crowe Horwath, LLP



Arloa Sutter
Executive Director
Breakthrough

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM



Nathan Bedell
Program Director
Violence Prevention Initiative



Madelyn Bell
Behavioral Health
Coordinator



Alexandra Cesario
Director of Development



Martin Coffey
Associate Director
Men's Services



Lauren Cole
Housing Coordinator



Alex Cool
Associate Director
Breakthrough Youth Network



Marcie Curry
Senior Director
Breakthrough Youth Network



Marshall Douglas
HR Coordinator



Eric Estrada
Operations Coordinator



Lisa Gwin
Early Childhood Director



Ann Healing
Director of Volunteer
Engagement



Cheron Massonburg
Director of Adult Services

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS



Brandon Barr
Managing Director
CIBC



Robinzina Bryant
Attorney
Law At Last, Inc.



Jared Falconer
Director of Client Services
Scout Exchange



Erik Fyrwald
CEO
Syngenta



Vinni Hall
CEO
Art of Learning



Kathleen Kenehan
Founder & CEO
Agency H5



Raymond Lee
Financial Advisor
Northwestern Mutual



O'Neal Miller
President
North Lake Associates



D.L. Morriss
Partner
Hinshaw Law



Johnny Musso
President, retired
EME Enterprises



Steve Searles
Owner
JHS, LLC



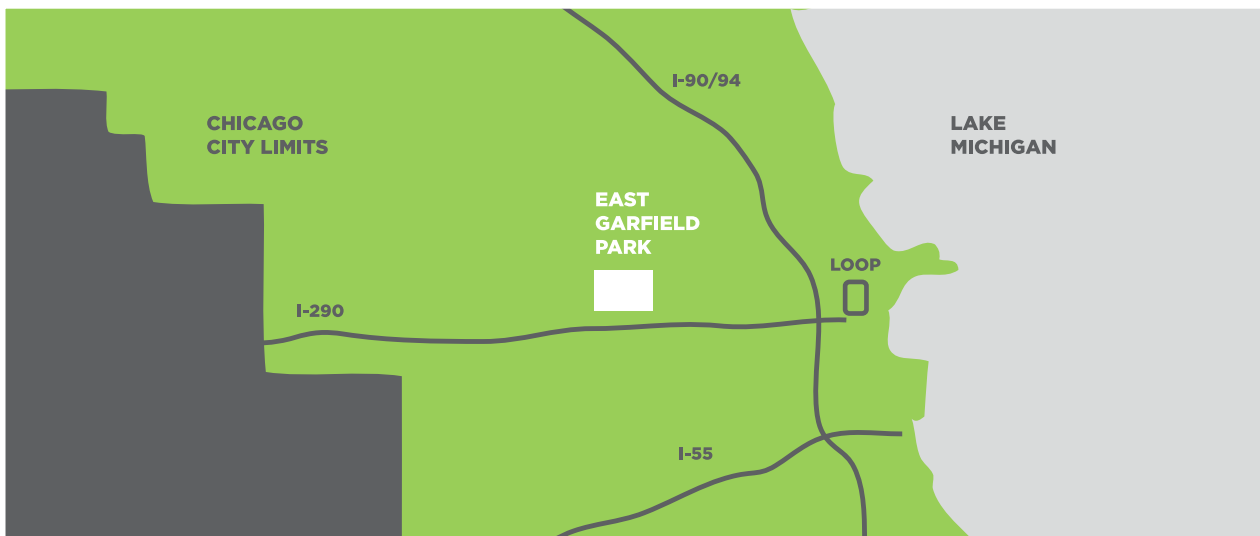
Kwesi Smith
Research Analyst
William Blair



Desiree Tate
Founder & CEO
Tate and Associates

“Breakthrough gave me hope. They gave me encouragement. I was lost and now I am found. I truly thank God for sending me to Breakthrough. Now, I’m more hopeful of what I’m going to become.”





MEN'S CENTER

402 N. St Louis Ave.

FRESH MARKET

3334 W. Carroll Ave.

WOMEN'S CENTER

3330 W. Carroll Ave.

FAMILYPLEX

3219 W. Carroll Ave.

